

London Ramblers Basketball Guidelines for House League Coaches September 2010

The primary objective of the London Ramblers Basketball House League Program is to provide a positive and constructive environment for children to learn to play and enjoy the sport of basketball. In addition to learning basic basketball skills, it is our intent that participants learn the basic concepts of sportsmanship and fair play.

London Ramblers Basketball is committed to safeguarding and promoting the well being of all its members. Volunteers in the organization should at all times show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others and conduct themselves in a way that reflects these guidelines.

1. Make sure that your behaviour always is guided by a concern for the safety and well being of participants.

Volunteers should take all reasonable steps required to ensure the safety and well being of participants.

2. Make sure that you are clearly identifiable as a program volunteer.

All volunteers are asked to wear the Ramblers attire that is provided to them so that parents and participants can easily identify program volunteers.

3. Be on time.

Volunteers are asked to arrive in a timely fashion so that they can discuss the planned activities with the Program Convenor before things get underway and so that adequate supervision is in place as participants arrive.

4. Direct questions and concerns to the Program Convenor.

The Program Convenor will be present at all activities and is there to offer instruction and assistance. Any questions or concerns that volunteers have should be directed to the program Convenor.

5. Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of every person.

Regardless of their gender, race, cultural background, religion, or other factor irrelevant to the sport, all individuals are entitled to equal treatment and respect and all participants should feel welcome when attending activities. Volunteers should avoid making remarks that could be construed as offensive or discriminatory, keeping in mind that sometimes even a joke may give rise to offence. Using discretion is imperative, and it is better to err on the side of caution. Volunteers should refrain from using profane, insulting, or offensive language.

6. Ensure that any physical contact is appropriate.

Physical contact between a volunteer and a participant, except that which would be considered usual social contact such as giving a “high five,” should be rare. Gestures that are intended to be well meaning and that are considered acceptable to some may be unacceptable to others.

Particular care needs to be taken when working with children. Volunteers should ensure that if there is physical contact with a participant, it is appropriate to the situation, necessary for the participant’s skill development, and done in the sight of another adult.

7. Avoid being alone with participants.

While children never should be left alone, volunteers should avoid being alone with participants.

If you must have a private conversation with a participant, do it within the view of others and with another volunteer or with the participant’s parent present.

8. Respect the facilities and equipment provided.

London Ramblers Basketball is committed to maintaining good relationships with those whose gyms we use to run our programs. Facilities, equipment, and their upkeep cost money and must be kept in good order. Volunteers should ensure that neither they nor participants abuse anything provided for their use and that facilities are left in the state in which they were found.